

The Massachusetts Technology Collaborative's Renewable Energy Trust: Overview and Introduction to Clean Energy Choice

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Renewable Energy Trust

- Funded as part of 1997 electricity restructuring law
- Mission:
 - Increase the supply of and demand for clean energy
 - Promote the development of a vibrant Massachusetts renewable energy industry
 - Maximize benefit to Massachusetts ratepayers
- MTC is the state's economic development agency for clean energy and the innovation economy.

Massachusetts RPS

- Beginning in 2003, electricity suppliers provide minimum levels of electricity from "new" renewable sources
- Eligible resources include solar, wind, fuel cells using renewable fuels, landfill gas, "low emission" biomass
- Required levels: 1% in 2003 increasing by .5% a year through 2009; then increasing by 1% thereafter


Examples of Trust Programs To Increase Supply and Demand



Supply-Side:

- MA Green Power Partnership
- Community Wind

Demand-Side:

- Education and Public Awareness
 - **Clean Energy Choice**
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Clean Energy Choice Program

- Public announcement soon; starting with Mass. Elec. GreenUp
- Provide ratepayers with information about renewable electricity benefits and choices
- Increase value consumers receive for premiums paid for renewable electricity

Clean Energy Choice Consumer Benefits:

- **Funding** for community-based renewable projects; MTC matching grants for RPS eligible electricity purchases
- **Certification** that participating renewable electricity choices meet high standards
- **Reduced cost** of purchasing clean electricity through available federal tax deduction

Future Role of Renewables

- Consumer support is key
 - Individual economic decisions
 - Participation in the political process
 - Acceptance affects siting
- Clean Energy Choice will create additional value for consumers
 - Comprehensive, unbiased information
 - Tangible community-based benefits
 - Recognition that premiums benefit everyone in Massachusetts